United Nations A/71/692–S/2016/1056

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 14 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach hereto the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the forty-second anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled "Definition of Aggression" (see annex).

I would appreciate your having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-22346 (E) 281216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 14 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the forty-second anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled "Definition of Aggression"

14 December 2016 marks the forty-second anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled "Definition of Aggression".

Having illegally occupied the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and carried out further military intervention in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Russian Federation initiated an unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation thus has blatantly violated its international obligations and commitments as envisaged under the Charter of the United Nations, the 1975 Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act), the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the 1997 Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership. The Russian Federation has not only violated the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine, it has also threatened international peace and security. The third year of Russia's military aggression continues to bring pain and suffering to the people of Ukraine of all ethnic backgrounds. The total number of victims of this undeclared war in the heart of Europe exceeds 10,000.

In view of this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine continues to affirm, in clear and unequivocal terms, that the occupation and subsequent attempt to annex the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as Russia's illegal actions in Donbas, fall squarely under the definition of an act of aggression, in line with the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of article 3 set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX). Such actions constitute the most serious crime against international peace, which entails the international responsibility of the Russian Federation as a State and the international criminal responsibility of its senior leadership.

The Russian Federation is a party to an international armed conflict currently under way in our country, and the political and military leadership of Russia bears full responsibility for its planning, preparation, initiation and waging, as well as responsibility for numerous human casualties, material damage and destruction.

No political, economic or military considerations can justify the treacherous Russian aggression against Ukraine. War cannot be a means of doing politics in the twenty-first century.

Ukraine is grateful to the States Members of the United Nations for their consistent and strong support in countering Russian aggression and overcoming its consequences. We call for increasing international pressure on the Russian Federation in order to stop the aggression and bring about complete withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine of the Russian armed forces and Russian-controlled illegal armed groups and mercenaries, along with the removal of weapons and

military equipment deployed in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) or illegally transferred to the terrorist organizations "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Luhansk People's Republic", as well as to revoke all acts aimed at legitimizing the attempted annexation of the Crimean peninsula and to undertake its further de-occupation.

Only Ukraine's full control over the entire length of its State border and firm guarantees of its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence can safeguard international peace and security.

14 December 2016